

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

ESTABLISHED 1892

LALVIN H. ROBINSON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
Member Virginia Press AssociationEntered as second-class matter at the Post-office at Appomattox, Va., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.
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Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin Conference. It is as vague as the diplomats could make it. It tells nothing save the physical fact that the leaders of the three nations met and talked. However, that does not mean that nothing was accomplished. Far from that. The results of the conference will be shown in military action. The outstanding item of the announced activities fairly dripped with a spirit of friendship, co-operation and accord. Dropped across the project word, for the reports told more of drinking, horse and car, cold work. The boys must have let their hair down! According to the reports, Uncle Joe Stalin must have won the honor, for we read that he checked his glass to no less than 34 toast during one stretch! What a man!

The "new commandment" of love which Christ gave was not new in the sense of then first being known, but new in its application (John 13:34). Only since Christ had come did men know how to love in truth. This commandment of love was also first in time, being given before the Ten Commandments (see Lev. 19:18). Then, too, it was the fundamental of all spiritual life, the first thing man needed to know, that God is love.

It also must take first place in man's thinking, for even as the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) is the heart of all moral law, so love for God and our fellow man is that which makes the Decalogue effective in our lives. Love and obedience go together (John 13:10). Our lesson teaches us four things—

I. Love God (Mark 12:30-33). Because "God is love" (John 4:8) He desires man's perfect love toward Him. Because the essence of His being is love, He loves us and enables us to love Him.

There is more here than a commandment or the performing of a duty. There is the recognition of a controlling principle of all life. In the entire universe there is a day of multiplication of powerful machines and organizations, when man is "power conscious" in an unusual way, it is well to recall that the greatest power in all the world is the power of love.

Then let us not forget that all true love should rest upon the relationship with God. It has no real foundation if it does not.

II. Love Your Neighbor (Mark 12:31-34).

Everything about our relationship to Christ and to God expresses itself in our living. No spiritual truth is simply to be admired, or kept on a shelf as a cherished possession. It is to be put to work in the affairs of life.

Love for God means love for our neighbor. If we do not love our neighbor (and that means our fellow man—Luke 10:25-42) how then does the love of God abide in our hearts? It is worthy of note that the recognition and appreciation of this truth on the part of the scribe brought him near to the kingdom of God, but not into it. He was "not far from it," but he was not in it. It is terrifying to think how close men may come to entering without doing so. Reader, have you entered into eternal life through Jesus Christ?

III. Love Your Brethren (John 13:34-35).

Here we come within the circle of believers and see that the directive thing about their fellowship should be love for one another.

The old commandment of love becomes a new one because Christ shows that the measure of that love is to be His great love for us. How did Christ love us? With a perfect, unselfish and thoughtful devotion, which so deeply desired the very most and best for us that He was willing to lay down His holy life as our Saviour from sin.

The thing which marked the early church with glorious distinction, that in a world that hated, they loved one another, and in a world that killed and destroyed they were even willing to die for their brethren. Tertullian of Carthage (2nd cent.) said, in the second century, that the enemies of Christianity said of the Christians, "See how they love one another."

IV. Love is Obedient, loyal and Sacrificial (John 15:10-14).

Love is not an impulsive, erratic movement of man's nature which tries to make up for neglect and indifference by occasional displays of generosity and thoughtfulness. No, indeed. Love walks the straight and steady way of obedience to God's commandments.

Keeping God's law is not accomplished by reading it, or talking about it, or even learning it by heart, but by definitely practicing its precepts.

This brings you into our lives—the real and perfect joy of Christ. It is so important a new to the world. Our fellowship with the Lord calls for obedience and sacrifice, but this is not a burdensome duty, a distressing experience. It is a joyful one. Who counts it a trial to do that which pleases a loved one? Do we really love God? Then we will rejoice in our response to His law, yes, in any possible act of devotion.

Love draws no limiting line between you and me. If we love, we say, "I cannot not love you, for in giving it I am bringing deliverance to my friends."

We shall not question His guidance nor blush to own His name even though the love of men mean our death. This we shall do for Christ's sake, and for the sake of a suffering humanity.

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